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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Information received from the United Nations Development Programme

1. United Nations Development Programme

1. During the biennium 1995-1996, and following General Assembly resolution 49/5 of 21 October 1994, UNDP continued to promote cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS) at both headquarters and country office level. The two organizations have engaged in a process of continuing dialogue in order to explore specific areas for joint programme initiatives, and headquarters meetings were held in September 1995 to discuss cooperation on employment generation, particularly through the promotion of small-scale enterprises. Further discussions on joint activities have continued on disaster preparedness. The Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean has stressed to all its resident representatives the need to maintain contacts and consultations with the representatives of OAS in order to improve effective coordination for the benefit of the countries in the region. This has already shown a good result, particularly in countries under special conditions, such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti. In addition to previous contributions, UNDP continues to support the strengthening of cooperation with OAS; the following is worth noting in that connection.

2. In Haiti, although there is no direct technical cooperation related to a specific project, close and regular coordination is maintained at a political level. This coordination is particularly active within the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH)-United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH)-UNDP relationship in the justice and parliament sectors.

3. In the thematic area of governance, upon the initiative of the Regional Bureau and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), two inter-agency meetings have taken place among OAS, UNDP, the World Bank, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and IDB, in order to coordinate efforts and resources.

4. In the thematic area of the environment, a series of activities have complemented each other's mandates, such as the following:

(a) OAS studies in the Lake Titicaca basin in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have been helpful in the formulation of a UNDP/Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on biodiversity conservation of the Lake Titicaca basin;

(b) OAS, through cooperation with UNEP, has supported parallel activities to a UNDP project on the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor;

(c) OAS has performed an environmental action plan study for the Government of Uruguay which has been taken into consideration for the development of a UNDP/GEF pipeline proposal for planning and sustainable management of the maritime front.

5. UNDP participated in the third general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and OAS, held at United Nations Headquarters on 17 and 18 April 1995.

6. OAS participated in the Policy Committee of the Special Economic Plan for Central America, which was coordinated by UNDP.